

REMARKS/ARUGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 10, 20 and 21-36 are presently active in this case, Claims 1-9 and 11-19 are canceled, Claims 10 and 20 are amended, and Claim 21-36 are added by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 1-9 and 11-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,018,796 to Suzuki et al. (herein "Suzuki") in view of Japan Patent No. 09-212359 to Purasenjitsuto et al. (herein "Purasenjitsuto"); Claim 10 was indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form; and Claim 20 was allowed.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication of allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Claim 10, which was indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form, is amended to include all the limitations of Claim 1, as suggested in the outstanding Office Action. Further, applicant respectfully submits that amendments in Claims 10 and 20 that replace "to a memory stage processing" with --to a pipeline stage processing after an executing stage processing-- raise no new issues and do not constitute new matter.

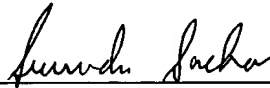
Further, new Claims 21-28 and 29-36 include all the limitation recited in canceled dependent Claims 3-9 and 11, respectively, and depend on allowable Claims 10 and 20, respectively.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that independent Claims 10 and 20 and claims depending therefrom, are allowable.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above comments, the pending claims are believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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